[English]

Oil and Natural Gas Exploration

*173. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the quantity of under-ground Natural Gas and Oil available in the country particularly in Tripura;

(b) if so, the name of the agency which has conducted the survey and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether some foreign agencies have also been entrusted with the job regarding exploration of oil and natural gas in some parts of Tripura;

(d) if so, the names of agencies alongwith the details of terms and conditions of the agreements with them; and

(e) the details of industries that have been set up for proper utilisation of the natural gas available in Tripura and the other gas based industries planned to be set up in the State?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) ONGC, OIL and several Private/Joint Venture Companies have carried out exploration activities (which also include surveys) in different parts of the country (including offshore) and about 6389.2 million tonnes of inplace reserves of oil and oil equivalent of gas has been established as on 1.4.1996.

As regards Tripura, ONGC has been conducting Geoscientific surveys in the State since 1962 and as a result thereof inplace reserves of 30.10 billion cubic meters of gas have been established as on 1.4.1996.

(c) and (d) A U.S. Company, Okland Oil Company has been awarded the contract for the block AA-ON-3 in the 7th round of bidding. However, Production Sharing Contract for the block has not yet been signed.

(e) An allocation of 1.63 MMSCMD of gas has been made to the following units in Tripura :

	(MMSCMD)
* TSED, Rokhia	0.6000
* TSED, Baramura	0.1380
* TNGC	0.1302
* NEEPCO, Ramchandranagar	0.7500
* CNG (IBP)	0.0160

The expected consumption by these units will fully utilise the gas available in the State.

* TSED - Tripura State Electricity Department
* TNGC - Tripura Natural Gas Company Ltd.
* NEEPCO - North Eastern Electric Power Corporation
* CNG (IBP) - Compressed Natural Gas (IBP)

Oil Industry Development Board

*174. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the purposes for setting up of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB);

(b) the amount of cess collected under OIDB during the last three years; and

(c) the manner in which the above amount has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Oil Industry (Development) Act 1974, provides for the establishment of a Board for the development of oil industry. Under section 2 (k) of this Act, the term "oil industry" includes all activities by way of prospecting or exploring for or production of mineral oil, refining, processing, transportation, storage, handling and marketing of mineral oil, production and marketing of all products, down stream of an oil refinery and the production of fertilisers and petro-chemicals and all activities directly or indirectly connected therewith.

(b) A sum of Rs. 8185.57 crores approximately have been collected during the years 1994-95 to 1996-97.

(c) As per Section 16 of the Oil Industry Development Act, 1974, the cess is to be first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the Oil Industry Development Board such sums of money out of the proceeds of cess as the Government may think fit for being utilised for the development of oil industry which, inter-alia, includes petroleum, petrochemicals and fertilizers. To the extent, the cess collection exceeds the sums directly paid to OIDB, it becomes a resource for financing Government expenditure in and for extending direct and indirect budgetary support to the Central public sector undertakings in petroleum, petrochemicals and fertilizers sector.

Indian Port Trust Act, 1908

*175. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign investments of over $ 18 billion for the overall development of major ports in the country is awaiting requisite amendments in the Indian Port Trust Act, 1908;

(b) if so, the main points of amendments that are being considered;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether to facilitate development of port infrastructure the Ministry plans to permit major ports to forge joint ventures with minor ports to fund their modernisation;

(e) if so, whether the move will help to meet the fund requirements of Rs. 2000 crore for development of minor intermediate ports in the Ninth plan period through private participation;

(f) if so, the steps likely to be taken in this regard; and

(g) to what extent the foreign fund flow for port modernisation will be available?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The provisions of the Major Port Trusts Act, at present, do not permit Major Ports to forge joint ventures with minor ports.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Supply of Kerosene

*176. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV :
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the quota of kerosene fixed for each State during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the basic parameters for fixation of such quota;

(c) whether reuests for enhancement of kerosene quota have been received from different States;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The quantity of Kerosene allocated to each State/UT during the last 3 years is given in the Statement attached.

(b) to (e) Kerosene is a deficit product in the country and more than 40% of the requirements are met by imports. Allocation of kerosene to the States is made on the basis of historicals, i.e. past allotment and consumption plus permissible increase against additional availability. Requests are received from the State Governments for additional allocation from time to time. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it has not been possible to meet the full demand of the States. There is heavy subsidy on kerosene, which has been growing over the years and is more than Rs. 5/- per litre at present totalling presently to more than Rs. 6000 crores per annum. Nevertheless, a 3% increase has been given in the allocation during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 over the previous years for the country as a whole. However, the States/UTs with lower per capita availability have been given higher increases and vice versa.

Statement

State-wise Allocation of Kerosene during the Last Three Years.

(Fig. in MTs)

State/UTs.	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	1	2	3
Haryana	153992	159468	161040
Himachal Pradesh	40374	42228	58282
Jammu & Kashmir	77815	85536	89500
Punjab	325679	328932	335955
Rajasthan	305612	327344	352370
Uttar Pradesh	1015016	1087462	1142082
Chandigarh	20928	21132	21372
Delhi	238540	240924	243648
Assam	251586	255232	258644
Bihar	558436	606924	652956
Manipur	22262	21638	22494
Meghalaya	15703	16092	20070
Nagaland	10324	11422	13728
Orissa	194954	211452	233459
Sikkim	7556	7632	7840
Tripura	22188	23112	30816
West Bengal	748188	757987	767110
Arunachal Pradesh	9566	9576	10994
Mizoram	6422	6360	7956
Andaman & Nicobar	4348	4632	4912
Gujarat	805680	806280	826562
Maharashtra	1507874	1527648	1549928
Goa	29132	27408	27774
Diu	1468	1488	1506
Daman	1476	1488	1506
Dadar & N. Haveli	3108	3144	3184
Madhya Pradesh	444420	482555	517874
Andhra Pradesh	602688	621656	647148
Karnataka	455696	484690	503150
Kerala	272537	287167	284753